

**Written Testimony Supporting
Proposed House Bill 7285
An Act Concerning Complaints That Allege Misconduct By Law Enforcement Agency
Personnel**

Senator Doyle, Senator Kissel, Representative Tong, and distinguished members of the Joint Committee on Judiciary:

My name is Lindsey Rizzo and I am a resident of Middlebury, Connecticut. I submit this testimony to the committee in support of Proposed House Bill 7285, concerning compliance with the provisions of section 7-294bb of the Connecticut general statutes concerning the acceptance, processing, and investigation of a complaint from a member of the public relating to alleged misconduct committed by law enforcement agency personnel.

A recent survey by the ACLU of Connecticut clearly shows that many Connecticut police agencies still make it difficult for members of the public to obtain information regarding complaint forms and processes easily. Middlebury Police Department's survey data was deemed "un-collectible" because callers were unable to obtain answers during their attempts to gain information relative to the survey. Additionally, complaint documents are not publicly available on the websites of forty Connecticut law enforcement agencies -- including Middlebury -- in violation of state law. As a resident of Middlebury, this concerns me greatly.

The findings of the survey overall reveal a clear need for additional action. Proposed House Bill 7285 could do more to fix the broken complaint process. I therefore support the intention of Proposed House Bill 7285, but ask this committee to amend this bill so that its intent is thorough and complete. It is clear we must amend H.B. 7285 to include the following:

- 1) establish meaningful penalties for law enforcement agencies that do not comply with state complaint acceptance and investigation laws,
- 2) create a standardized complaint form that is compliant with best practices and translated into all commonly-spoken languages in Connecticut, and
- 3) require law enforcement agencies to track complaint data and to annually report specific complaint information to the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management.

The above amendments to H.B. 7285 will help to establish a transparent and accessible police complaint process, to maintain the trust of community members and residents like myself, and to ultimately ensure that we are holding our law enforcement agencies accountable.

With the above amendments, I urge the members of this committee support Proposed House Bill 7285.

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